

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- From the President
- August Program
- ARRL National Convention
- July Meeting Minutes
- Summer DX Challenge Update
- DX Contests
- New First Harmonic!

Congratulations Terri and Kevin!

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

What a great Hamfest. The volunteers from this club and others who pitched in made it a pleasure to attend. Final numbers aren't available but the consensus is a record attendance year. As host of one of the six regional Centennial hamfests, many club members stepped up to help with forums, hospitality, and other efforts needed for the throngs of vendors, guests, and visiting League officials.

As if that workload wasn't enough, Tom KG4CUY pulled off the very successful activation of W100AW/4 with the help of a dedicated crew. There's an article inside with more details.

In last month's meeting we proposed a weekend date for the annual club picnic but found the Monte Sano pavilion unavailable and instead reserved the Sunday, October 12 date. We'll finalize those plans at the October meeting and provide details by email. Is your email address with the club up to date?

As I write this it's Tennessee's second turn in the W1AW/4 state activation. As residents of the volunteer state, Bruce AC4G and myself have taken turns at band modes almost every evening. Demand seems to be as high as the

first activation. During the DX Banquet I asked guest and League President Kay Craigie N3KN if anyone at the League would have guessed how popular the Centennial QSO party would be and her reply; "Not by half".

Speaking of the Banquet, a great success! Bob Allphin K4UEE offered up an entertaining and informative program on the FT5ZM Amsterdam Island DXpedition. The Best Western Madison came through with good food and a comfortable venue. Bill KD8IGK provides more details in his report.

We're quickly moving into the Fall contest season. Hope you've followed Steve AG4W's advice and used what spare time available this summer for antenna & station upgrades. For me contests are a great way to increase one's DXCC totals. Bill KD8IGK will be updating the website – including your DXCC standing.

Incidentally, many of our club members operate stations in K4BFT's annual Field Day event. This year things came together to produce a very good score. Maybe a top 10 finish.

73,
Mark

September Program

With the equinox approaching, we need to recalibrate our seasonal sense of what to expect, band-by-band, each hour of the day, and how that will change as we move from summer to fall, to winter, and to spring. Get the scoop from Tom Russell, N4KG, just in time for contest season. We meet again at Ryan's, around 6:00 for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for the program. See you there!



August Meeting Minutes

By Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK

Date: August 12, 2014 (with update on the Aug 16, NADX Club Banquet)

NA DX Club Meeting Minutes

1. Mark Brown N4BCD kicked off the meeting – we had 25 in attendance with 2 guests.
2. Notable DX Worked by our club are Rob Suggs KB5EZ– Lebanon, VP5 on RTTY, Steve Werner AG4W – 501WS, Lile Bickley K4NA - XW1IC, VK9EX, and VK9EC, Kelly Johns W4VPZ – Brazil, Serbia, Slovenia, Denmark and Cyprus.
3. We welcomed an old friend of the club W4BRE DANIEL C WHITSETT, JR from Huntsville.
4. We discussed and approved the hosting of our annual picnic for Saturday, October 4th at the South Pavilion at Monte Sano State Park. Look for a list of goodies to bring. Last year's picnic was enjoyed by all, it was a very nice affair with three radios active and some great DX too! *[The date has been moved to Sunday, October 12th—Ed.]*

5. Tom Duncan gave us an update on the W100AW/4 planned event during the Hamfest, the final report on our accomplishments will be presented at the Sept. 9th meeting.

6. Current Bank Balance.

Beginning Balance July 8 .. \$ 4,393.04
Deposits \$ 1,565.40
Withdrawal (Young Ham Award Plaque, Wholesale Trophies)\$ 47.62
Withdrawals (Banquet drawing tickets – Staples, Inc.) \$ 11.43
Withdrawals (Best Western Banquet Expense) \$ 1,921.55
Ending Balance September 2
..... \$ 3,977.84

Net Improvement in our Bank Balance from June 1, 2014 = \$ 538.19 - this reflects our profits from the Banquet.

We had 67 in attendance at the meal, the food was very good and the presentation was outstanding. We had two grand prizes of a \$200.00 gift cards from, one from Yaesu Radio and one from Gigaparts. There also were door prizes from DXE Engineering, Heil Sound, and some other smaller gifts, in total there were over 25 door prizes. It was quite the event we also had Kay Craigie the president of the ARRL at the event.

Our September 1 Bank Balance ended at..... \$ 3,977.84

Our January 1 Bank Balance started at..... \$ 2,959.65

Net Gain in our account
.....\$ 1,018.19

Notes provided by:

William Bathgate KD8IGK – NADXC Treasurer and Secretary

W100AW/4 Recap

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Activation of W100AW/4 started with a call from AL PIO Ed Tyler N4EDT to Hamfest Director Charlie Emerson N4OKL who “nominated” Tom Duncan KG4CUY to spearhead the effort. Tom evolved a plan that attempted to balance the conflicting League goals (accessible stations & high QSO count) with the realities of what could be done with the available manpower. This was Tom's effort and my comment to him in the months leading; “Let me know what I can do to help”.

As we mentally worked through equipment & antenna scenarios good ideas seemed to float to the top. The City of Huntsville allowed the use of the closed Holiday Inn parking lot – a relatively quiet location electrically compared to the Van Braun Center. Two

hundred watt radios were 3 dB better than 100w radios. Easily constructed antennas were preferred to better performing but more complex options. A trailer was made available from Warren KJ4RAQ. Generator power with more than enough juice & endurance to run the whole thing came from the EMA via Chris KF4MMF.

At a few weeks away, paper mapping the stations down to the last wire & connector were done to make sure that something as simple as a missing phone plug adapter would not keep a station off the air. Tom, Bill KD8IGK, and myself brought things together in the parking lot on Friday morning with antenna raising assistance from Craig NM4T, Larry NS4Q, Jack W5WQQ and

very important: Jack's legendary trunk. Tom's target was to have Station 1 on the air by 1PM Friday and Station 2 by 3PM. Here were the actual station configurations:

Station 1 TS-990

Antenna 1 - 132' Ladderline fed doublet @ 50' into Murch Tuner and DXE Balun.
Antenna 2 - Cushcraft MA5B at 35'. A rope tied to the boom was the rotor.

Station 2 TS-990

Antenna 1 - Force 12 40/30 Dipole @ 65' on loaned 55' US Tower.
Antenna 2 - Cushcraft MA5B @ 56' on same tower. Ham 3 or 4 rotor.

Cont'd on p. 3

Both stations had Heil boom headsets, CW keys, and logging computers running N1MM. Either station could run CW or Phone.

A few minutes before 1 PM I put station one on the air for a signal check. The W1AW portable station I contacted was surprised to hear our callsign and took the time to give us a good report of clear audio and no RF feedback. Steve AG4W showed up about this time and commenced to run 160+ for several hours on 20m using the first available antenna – the ladderline fed 132' doublet. Talk about a versatile antenna. The remainder of the day saw different operators in front of both radios handing out Q's on Phone & CW.

Station planning also meant safeguarding the equipment. That problem was solved when I volunteered to be the overnight trailer guard dog instead of commuting home to TN each night.

The time saved on commuting didn't go far in getting additional sleep. On Friday afternoon Huntsville parking came to "renegotiate" our exclusive use of the empty Holiday Inn parking lot. Seems that additional downtown events created an acute shortage of parking spaces – especially handicap spots. We moved a few things around and they provided traffic cones to block anyone from driving into towers towers & feedlines. All was well and we continued operations with only 15 minutes being off the air while the generator was moved.

When we shut down the stations at 11:30 PM Friday I crawled into a sleeping bag ready for some shuteye. Didn't happen. Every few minutes is seemed a car would start up, then the headlights through the windows, then gone. Repeated until 3AM.

Saturday operations commenced as soon as I opened the door to waiting operators and continued all day. Several league officials dropped by and several interested visitors walked through the parking lot to view the very impressive trailer mounted crank-up loaned by US Tower. At 1 PM the NAQP Phone contest started and we briefed operators: should anyone ask for Name & State for the exchange, we were Hiram (for Hiram Percy Maxim of course). One quick wit replied "Glad they dug you up for this"!

Two things did not go to plan. A personal cellular internet connection succumbed to (we suspect) high RF from adjacent ladderline and failed on Saturday. The Force 12 dipole was non-resonant anywhere and remained unused. Sure looked impressive though.

We pulled the plug on operations at 12:30 AM and this time sleep came quickly, probably from exhaustion. Since the trailer wasn't set-up for utilities, I accepted Warren & Karen's offer to use the shower in the Hospitality Room at the Embassy Suites who were up and out of the room on their morning donut run for the Hamfest workers.

On Sunday morning it was a treat to sit with ARRL League President Kay Craigie & her husband Carter at breakfast for a nice chat. Kay was very interested to hear about our growing QSO count.

By Sunday afternoon we had over 3000 QSO's in the log and knew that weather was on the way so we went QRT at 1 PM – two hours ahead of our planned shutdown. Even so it was a long, tiring, and wet day breaking things down.

Statistics:

Actual operating times (approximate local times)

Friday Noon to 11:30 PM

Saturday 7 AM to Sunday 12:30 AM

Sunday 7 AM to 12:50 PM (QRT due to approaching storms).

Band	CW	Phone	Total
80		47	47
40	6	1075	1081
30	51		51
20	268	1229	1497
17	115	151	266
15	91	45	136
Totals	531	2547	3078

Trailer visits by:

ARRL Southeastern Division Director
ARRL Southeastern Assistant Division Director
ARRL Section Manager - Alabama
ARRL Delta Division Director
ARRL Delta Division Assistant Director
ARRL Public Information Coordinator - Alabama
Alabama State EMA Director
Phil Parton - Kenwood Rep.

73, Mark N4BCD

Tennessee NTS Net

Bruce AC4G will assume NCS duties on Tuesday evening sessions of the TN NTS CW Net. The net took the summer off but will resume on September 8, 2014. This traffic net meets on 3562 MHz, Monday through Saturday, at 7 PM Central time.

W100AW/4 DX Statistics and Pictures

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

You've seen the W100AW/4 overall statistics at the end of Mark's article on the previous page. Just how were those 3078 QSOs broken down?

24% of the QSOs were DX, including the following:

4X	9A	CE	CT	CT3	CU
CX	DL	E7	EA	EA6	EA8
EI	EL	ES	EU	FG	GD
GI	GM	GW	HA	HB	HBO
HC	HI	HK	HZ	I	JA
KH2	KH6	KL	KP4	LA	LU
LX	LY	LZ	OE	OH	OK
OM	ON	P4	PA	PY	S5
SM	SP	SV	SV5	TF	TG
TI	UA	UA9	UN	UR	VE
VK	VU	XE	YB	YO	YV

Green countries had more than 50 QSOs, red ones are somewhat out-of-the ordinary.

Our highest SSB rate was 164/hour, and highest CW rate 77/hour.

We had 38 runs of more than 10 QSOs; 47% of our QSOs were made during these runs. The Saturday Afternoon Doldrums sapped the life out of our rate for several hours, but we stayed on the air: at least one station was operating 34 of the 47 available hours. Mark had to sleep sometime!

73, Tom KG4CUY



Above: US Towers Crank-up with 30/40m dipole on the top and 20/17/15/12/10m mini-beam below. Our shack is in the background to the left, the EMA generator courtesy Chris Reed, KF4MMF in the background just to the left of the tower.



Above: Our very nice shack, courtesy Warren, KJ4RAQ. The HARC crank-up is barely visible in the background.

Left: Attaching antennas to the mast of the 56' US Towers crank-up.

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/ Treasurer	Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK
At-large directors	Chuck Lewis, N4NM
	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

DX Contests for September

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

All Asian DX Contest, (SSB), 80 – 10M

Sept 6, 0000Z to Sept.6, 2400Z

Exchange: RS, & Age (YLS may send 00)

See page 81, Sept. QST and jarl.or.jp/English

Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest (SSB) 80 -10M

Sept 13, 0000Z to Sept 14, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 81, Sept. QST and www.waedc.de

Scandinavian Activity Contest, (CW), 80 – 10M

Sept. 20, 1200Z to Sept, 21 1159Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial #

See page 81, Sept. QST and www.sactest.net

CQ WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10M

Sept 27, 0000Z to Sept 30, 2359Z

Exchange: RST, State/Province, and CQ zone; DX sends RST and CQ zone

See page 81, Sept. QST and www.cqwwrtty.com

OTHERS:

Russian RTTY WW,

0000Z to 2400Z, Sept 6

Oceania DX Contest, SSB,

0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5

Oceania DX Contest, CW,

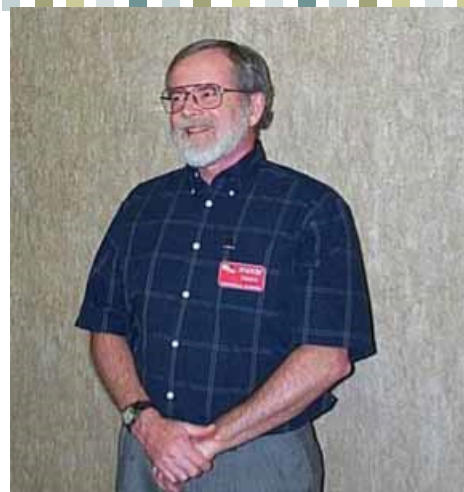
0800Z, Oct 11 to 0800Z, Oct 12

EU Autumn Sprint, CW,

1600Z-1959Z, Oct 12

Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB,

1200Z, Oct 11 to 1200Z, Oct 12



Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals. Beware.

Chuck, N4NM

For Sale

I have 5 sections of Rohn 25G and a top section for sale. \$ 400.00

Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK

Hy-Gain TH-11DX & Alpha 8410

This antenna is new, the 3 boxes have never been opened. It currently sells for \$1,111.95 at DX Engineering. I'll sell it for \$1,000 OBO and deliver it to any (reasonable) location.

Also, I'm still thinking about selling a new, never been on the air Alpha-8410 and some additional components.

Please email me direct if interested.

72/73,

Craig Behrens, NM4T

I am helping a friend, KD4UP, sell his K-Line. Please consider the following:

K3 100w xcvr: \$2000

SN 688, updated 6/2013 by Elecraft to current factory specs, calibrated and aligned (including gold pins where required) . Includes 2.8kHz roofing filter, KXV3A, KAT3, Elecraft mic

P3 Panadapter w/SVGA: \$850
SN 0474

KPA500, 500w amp: \$1700
SN 0370

KAT500, 500w ATU: \$525
SN 0135

All cables included, plus shipping of your choice. Local pickup would be

great! Prefer to sell the KPA500 and KAT500 together.

Tnx es 73,

Randy Moore, KS4L

The LongPath Staff

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Tom Duncan, KG4CUIY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Bill Bathgate, KD8IGK, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President